(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether any proposal wth regard to reduce the rates of Government taxes has been worked out by Government; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, the normal fluctuations in the international oil markets would be reflected in the domestic prices of petrol and diesel. However, Government is constantly reviewing the international oil prices, particularly the volatility and its likely impact on the domestic market. As and when Government intervention is considered necessary, appropriate measures will be taken.

Collection of cess on crude production

†3747. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1800/- per tonne are charged as cess on the crude oil produced in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the said cess is not being charged from some producers;

(c) if so, the names of such producers and the reasons for not charging cess from them; and

(d) the extent of annual loss likely to occur due to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The cess payable on crude oil has been increased from Rs. 900 per tonne to Rs. 1800 per tonne w.e.f. 1.3.2002. Government has signed 26 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the discovered fields with various consortia/companies, where Contractors' liability for cess on crude oil is Rs. 900 per tonne only. This provision is a part of the total fiscal package/commercial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

terms provided under the contracts for the discovered field PSCs. The obligation to pay cess on crude oil at the rate of Rs. 900 per tonne rests with the contractors.

Demand and supply of CNG in Delhi

†3748. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that requirement of CNG in Delhi for buses is 12 lakhs kg. per day whereas its supply is only 5.80 lakhs kg. per day;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have decided to increase the availability of CNG to meet the requirement of transportation in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of such quantity to be made available and by when the supply will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. The approximate requirement for the CNG buses in Delhi is about 3 lakh kg. per day. Availability of CNG is 6.04 lakh kg. per day, which is being dispensed from 94 stations in Delhi.

(c) and (d) IGL has started the work of augmenting its CNG infrastructure to supply 16.1 lakh kg. per day of CNG as directed by the Court, in phases by March 2003.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.